

Al the Hobo - Character Sketch

Jake Baerg

“Hi there **stranger**, don't mind me, I'm just getting by here. You ask my name?

Oh gracious, well I am **Al the Hobo**, keeper of 5th and Gilbert. It's my job here

to keep the streets safe and put a **smile** on everyone's face. Oh sure it gets

tough here and there. A lot of these people have jobs that make them quite

grouchy, they usually come from big buildings covered with glass. Are they mad

on sunny days because the **SUN** shines really bright through the windows all day

and gives them a headache? I like the **SUN** it brings warmth and fun. You can do

all kinds of fun things in the **SUN**. You can go for a nice bike ride in the **SUN**. You

can go swimming with your friends too! Some people like to drive in the **SUN**. I

would like that too if I had my own car. I don't have a car. All I have are my own

two feet. But I'm all right with that. I like the sun a lot because it's not **cold** like

the rain here. I always have a hard time finding shelter around my 5th and Gilbert.

Sometimes people aren't very nice because rain can make them **grouchy** too. I

think they need to make their minds up on what makes them **happy** and what

makes them **mad**. I don't need much to make me **happy**. I like early mornings,

I'm usually woken up by rain or the cold but it feels nice to be up when the day is

new and fresh. I can taste it when I breathe in and I can smell it through my nose

and feel it on my skin. It makes me happy to hear the sound of little coins landing in my little collector box. I had one made out of cardboard but it got **soggy** one day from a *heavy rain* and fell apart but I've managed to find myself a nice **PLASTIC** box. It makes a nice **THUD** when the coins are dropped in so I know when to thank the people walking by me. I appreciate it if they say you're welcome because I can't see their faces. When they don't say anything, I still **smile** because I like to think that they look my way. I hope they only drop the coins because they want to and not just because they feel like they have to. I don't need much; I can do pretty well with what I have. I usually grab some cans that people leave in the garbage bins or on the street. I know **my area** pretty well so I have all of the good spots in my memory. I only use a stick to make sure I don't walk into the street where the **big cars** are. I can usually just tell that from sound though. My ears are good to me. They keep me safe. They help me find **home**. But **what is home for me?** What's after this? I don't have much so I just have to live day to day and make sure to do my best to keep people **smiling**."